



---

## **PRESS RELEASE**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 14, 2004

For Information Contact Public Affairs

SANDY RAYNOR

Telephone: (602) 514-7625

Pager: (602) 356-5318

### **LAKE HAVASU CITY MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR STEALING SOCIAL SECURITY FUNDS**

**PHOENIX** –The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on May 12, 2004, Garland Percy Smith, DOB 8/28/34, of Lake Havasu City, Ariz. was sentenced to 37 months in prison followed by three years probation by U.S. District Judge Mary H. Murguia in Phoenix for violating one count of 42 U.S. Code 408(a)(7)(B), Misuse of a Social Security Number. Smith was also ordered to pay full restitution to the Social Security Administration in the amount of \$196,056.

Smith plead guilty on January 14, 2004 after an investigation revealed that he had assumed the identities of at least twenty-one senior citizens. Under these various identities, Smith fraudulently received monthly retirement insurance and in some cases, Supplemental Security Income benefits, over two years. During the time he had assumed these identities, he was wanted by the U.S. Marshal Service for absconding while on federal supervisory release from Oregon.

He was arrested on December 4, 2002 while attempting to evade law enforcement in Lake Havasu City, Ariz. near the residence he rented. He has been in federal custody in

-MORE-

Oregon and Arizona since his arrest.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General, Office of Investigations.

The prosecution was handled by Paul Rood, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-937-PCT-MHM  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2004-89

# # #